

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Oct. 22, 2019

The meeting opened at 4:08. Present were Juliette Haas, Marj Wexler (Chair), Emily Eyre, Corinna Barnard, Richard Allen.

Minutes of the 09/10/19 meeting were accepted and approved.

Sustainability coordinator: Juliette said the Town's Springfield MRF contract ends June 30, 2020. Going into a new contract while recycling markets are in the current mess is proving to be difficult. For the first time in 30 years, the MRF will ask Egremont to pay a processing fee for all recyclables; projected to be about \$17K annually. That charge would far exceed any revenue. There will also be new recycling rules, which would require a new public awareness effort. Juliette and Office Administrator Mary Brazie plan to look into other contractors.

Mass SAVE Municipal Partnership (formerly Communities) grant. Juliette will fill out the application, due Nov. 6, which provides \$2000 to start and a total of \$5000 if a 5-percent increase in home-energy audits is achieved. The strategy would be marketing, events, organizing, community outreach and communications. Marj said we could hold informational sessions and living room coffees. Pat suggested showing environmental films along with home-energy-audit presentations. Juliette envisions planning and preparing a rollout for an information session.

October plastic reduction challenge: Marj said this project has gone beyond preaching to choir. Many people had given here feedback about heightened awareness. The daily tips will be consolidated into one cheat sheet for 31 tips, along with other suggestions and sources that arose from participant input. She will keep the Google group open for other possible projects and after this success the Green Committee is ready to entertain more initiatives. Party reminder: Nov. 3 at 2pm, The Barn. Marj agreed to send out a mass invitation reminder. She asked members to bring something to eat; she will be baking cookies. Beverages will be sold.

Berkshire Edge: Corinna will write a column on the Plastic Challenge for November/December; Pat is preparing an email interview with Tate Coleman for December/ January.

Film: "REUSE: Because You Can't Recycle the Planet" screening. The group agreed this might work in conjunction with an event about energy audits.

Tool library: Pat sought help from other committee members to craft the publicity wording.

Welcome compost buckets for Council on Aging: Juliette said 25 just arrived.

Statewide dehumidifier turn-in event Nov. 2: Juliette said Egremont's is the only one in Western Massachusetts.

Haz Mat Nov. 2 event at Great Barrington Transfer Station

Pollinator meeting Wed. at 7pm at Town Hall. It was agreed that the committee would offer support and also a letter of support for Ari Zorn's project for Smiley's Pond.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 4pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20.

Submitted by Corinna Barnard